

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on
December 18, 1998 Hall 769 SGW Campus

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. B. Boncore, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Mr. C. Dennis, Ms A. Ghadban, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. R. Green, Mr. D. Hinton, Mr. J. Johnson, Ms A. Kerby, Ms L. Lipscombe, Mr. M. Logan, Ms T. Ryan, Ms A. Siano, Ms L. Toscano, Mr. H. Zarins

Absent with Regrets: Mr. M. Bujold, Ms J. Deri, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. R. MacIver, Ms C. Hedrich

Delegates: Ms D. Gleason represented Ms K. Hedrich

Guests: Mr. C. Emond, Ms J. Chegrinec, Ms M. Mularkie, Mr. J. Purkis

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Green requested that the item "November Health Notes" be included under Student Life Issues. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Mr. Dennis.

The motion was carried

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the Search Committee for the Director of Health Services had met and were meeting again that afternoon. Everything was moving according to schedule and the plan was still to have a Director in place by June 1, 1999.

Dr. Boisvert announced that Mr. Keith Pruden had been hired as the new Student Affairs Coordinator in the Dean of Students Office. In addition to his new duties, Mr. Pruden will remain the coach of the Concordia Women's Basketball Team. Dr. Boisvert took the opportunity to welcome him and wish him well in his new endeavor.

Dr. Boisvert took the opportunity to extend to Council best wishes for the season and he reminded Council that the Student Services Holiday Lunch would take place in the Faculty Club following the CCSL Meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 1998

Mr. Green asked if the Vice Rector's Report on the Protest Incident had been endorsed by CCSL. Dr. Boisvert clarified that CCSL had endorsed only the recommendations in the report and referred Mr. Green to Page 3 of the November 98 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Green, and seconded by Ms Siano.

The motion was carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 CSU Report on the Hall Building Protest Incident

Dr. Boisvert invited Ms Mistie Mularkie, CSU External V.P. to speak. Ms Mularkie informed Council that she had been mandated by the CSU to prepare a report on the Hall Building Protest Incident as it was felt that the Vice Rector's Report was not sufficient. She added that this report had been approved formally by the CSU Council. Mr. Green spoke briefly about the differences between the Vice Rector's report and the CSU Report. He felt strongly that the Vice Rector's Report lacked an understanding of and a sensitivity to the activism culture and the concept of free speech. The issue of "spontaneous protests" and how that could impact on the safety and rights of individuals and the community was discussed. Concerns were again expressed that a clear, fair policy must be in place at the university in order to ensure that the rights of all are protected. This policy would ensure and affirm the belief that the university is a place where students have the right to express their views, debate issues and publicize their concerns in a safe and open environment. Mr. Hinton felt that these concerns had been addressed in depth at the November CCSL meeting. He felt it was important to move on and address the recommendations in Ms Mularkie's report. Mr. Hinton made the following motion seconded by Ms Kerby.

Be it resolved that the recommendations in the Vice Rector's Report and recommendations #1,2,4 of the CSU Report be forwarded to the ad hoc working group (Director of Security, Director of Rights & Responsibilities, Legal Counsel and the Dean of Students) and that this ad hoc group report back to CCSL within 3 months.

Be it also resolved that students be added to this group.

Mr. Green asked that recommendation #6 of the CSU report be added to the main motion. After discussion, however it was felt that CSU recommendation #6 dealt with a different issue and should be discussed separately. Mr. Green withdrew his amendment. After a lengthy discussion the motion was put to a vote.

The motion was passed unanimously

Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Logan, made the following motion:

Be it resolved that CCSL endorse CSU recommendation #6 that "Charles Emond must apologize for insinuating that the Citizens Coalition against Police Brutality was responsible for the violent acts performed by security guards."

Mr. Emond spoke briefly to the issue as he felt that his words may have been misinterpreted. He felt it was important to reiterate that he was not against activism, as he felt it can be important to "push" established perspectives. However, he said that when people, for whatever good reasons go outside policies, they knowing or unknowingly open themselves up to speculation as to their intent. He felt that his words were a comment on the incident albeit from his perspective and he did not feel it was necessary for him to apologize. Ms Mularkie and Mr. Green felt strongly that an apology was necessary to "clear the air". They felt the insinuation was completely inappropriate, misleading and insulting. A lively debate ensued. Ms Mularkie reminded Council that the CSU has accepted the recommendations from her

report. An apology is desired, however a retraction would be accepted. Mr. Emond reiterated that as he had indicated in his report, it took some effort to avoid the conclusion that perhaps one of the objectives of this protest group was to provoke physical reaction. To retract that statement is to say that there is no grey area, just black and white. He was not willing to make a retraction. Mr. Hinton called the question. Council had no objection. In order for Student Services staff to be able to vote freely, Mr. Emond suggested he leave the room. Dr. Boisvert asked if Council was ready to end discussion on the issue and vote on the motion.

Council voted 10 to 2 to continue discussion

Mr. Emond re-entered the room. Mr. Cote said that people often disagree with reports on incidents. In this case a fact was not reported wrong, an opinion was expressed. It is a question of freedom of expression. He felt it was important to remember that opinions on both sides of this issue would be recorded in the minutes of this meeting. Mr. Green felt the report should have been as objective as possible. There should have been no place for speculation or opinion in the report. Mr. Emond disagreed. He felt a "black and white report" would be a disservice to the community. Mr. Emond said he hoped that certain points of the CSU report are endorsed. He said that with respect to CSU recommendation #6, perhaps he had not written with the clarity he had intended or perhaps people did not read as he intended. Mr. Logan called the question. Council had no objection. Mr. Emond left the room. Dr. Boisvert asked if Council was ready to end discussion and vote on the motion.

Council voted unanimously to end discussion and vote on the motion

The motion made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Logan was put to a vote.

The motion was defeated: 10 opposed 2 in favour

Mr. Emond re-entered the room. Dr. Boisvert thanked Council for its contribution to the discussion on a very important issue.

4.2 Task Force on Commercial Advertisement on Campus

Ms Siano, Chair of the Task Force, introduced the members of her committee - Ms J. Chegrinec, Mr. R. Green, and Mr. J. Purkis. She spoke briefly on their report which had been distributed at the last CCSL meeting. There was a lengthy discussion on commercial advertising at the University. Concerns were expressed with respect to content, visibility and location as well as the procedures to lodge a complaint about an advertisement(s) on campus. Ms Chegrinec informed Council that there is an Advertising and Promotional Revenue Task Force at the University. She also informed Council that Dr. Boisvert has been appointed to that Task Force. After much discussion, Dr. Boisvert asked Council if it was their wish that he bring the concerns of CCSL concerning advertising and the recommendations of the Task Force to the attention of this committee. Council was in agreement. Dr. Boisvert took the opportunity to thank the Task Force for their hard work and confirmed that he would bring these issues forward.

5. REPORTS:

There were no presentations scheduled for the December CCSL meeting.

6. Student Life Issues

6.1 Health Notes: Health Effects of Marijuana. Dr. Boisvert ensured that all members of Council had a copy of Health Notes. Dr. Boisvert introduced Mr. Owan Moran, Health Educator and author of the article in question. Mr. Green said he had met with several students who had expressed concerns with the article. They felt there was a lack of balance in the information as it was presented, as only the negative effects were discussed. The reference for the study was from the Australian government. It was felt that there were good, fair Canadian reports that would have been of more benefit. Students need all the available information, both good and bad, in order to make an informed decision. A more balanced view would allow the students to take the article more seriously. The students perceived it as propaganda. Mr. Moran replied the article was published as a direct result of concerns that were expressed by students at the Health Fair. They wanted an article written on the consequences of smoking marijuana. He also informed Council that the Australian research was based on students worldwide, including North American. Mr. Dennis felt that Health Services must err on the side of conservatism and that the student handbooks gave information on positive effects. Mr. Logan said most students know the beneficial effects, but are not necessarily aware of the negative effects. Mr. Hinton said he always reads Health Notes and commended Mr. Owan for the informative articles. Dr. Boisvert asked if the February issue of Health Notes could reflect the concerns expressed at the meeting. Ms Siano agreed that would be done. Dr. Graub thanked the students for a most enlightening discussion. She felt there were lessons learned today that she would apply to Counselling and Development publications.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Due to time constraints, Ms Kerby agreed to defer her report to the February CCSL meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday, February 19, 1999 at 10AM H 769

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Logan.

The motion was passed